

President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev's commitment to political and societal reforms is highly commendable. Despite external pressures, Kazakhstan has remained a peaceful and stabilizing force in Central Asia, exemplifying its dedication to democracy and Western ideals.

On October 6, 2024, Kazakhstan held a national referendum on constructing a nuclear power plant. This event marked a significant step in shaping a new socio-political culture and exemplified the "Listening State" concept, where the government actively engages with citizens on critical issues.

Kazakhstan remains a trusted partner, both regionally and globally, particularly as an active member of the World Trade Organization (WTO). This long-standing partnership highlights the importance of advancing efforts to establish Permanent Normal Trade Relations, ensuring that Kazakhstan's economic growth is fully acknowledged and supported within the global marketplace.

As we look to the future, the United States and Kazakhstan are poised to deepen their partnership through continued dialogue, trade, and collaboration on shared goals. Together, we are committed to fostering peace, security, and prosperity, not only in Central Asia but on the global stage.

CELEBRATING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF NORMALVILLE CHURCH

HON. GUY RESCENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 25, 2024

Mr. RESCENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the congregation of Normalville Church in Normalville, Pennsylvania, on their 175th anniversary.

The church was founded by German immigrants in the mid-19th century who were a part of the United Brethren denomination. Originally, the immigrants bought the land in 1847 for \$25 and the church opened two years later in 1849. The church started out as the Evangelical United Brethren, transitioning to the United Methodist in 1968 before eventually becoming Normalville Church. The church is currently led by Pastor John Knoll, who will continue the storied legacy of those who came before him.

Throughout its history, the church has served as an important place for members to come together, worship, and serve their community. The congregation leads food banks, clothing drives, and donates to the local volunteer fire department and schools. Not only does the church work to serve the people of southwestern Pennsylvania, but they also have a donation drive, Operation Christmas Child, that provides shoes to children in need across the world.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I congratulate Normalville Church on their 175th anniversary and thank them for bringing the community together.

RECOGNIZING PETER F. MURPHY ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 25, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Peter F. Murphy on the occasion of his retirement. Appointed in December 1982 to represent the Springfield District on the Fairfax County Planning Commission, Pete has left a remarkable legacy of leadership, public service, and community building. His tenure has profoundly shaped Fairfax County's development and growth.

For more than 40 years, Pete served with unwavering commitment, including as the Commission Chairman for 34 years—a role in which he guided the county through major development initiatives, land use decisions, and infrastructure projects. His leadership on the Commission has ensured that Fairfax County maintained growth, ensuring a balance between development and preserving the county's quality of life.

Beyond his service on the Planning Commission, Pete was active in various key county initiatives. He chaired the County's Telecommunications Task Force, served on the Route 28 Corridor Task Force, and provided leadership in the Fort Belvoir Engineer Proving Ground Task Force. These projects are a testament to his expertise in understanding the long-term needs of the region and his ability to guide complex development processes.

Pete's contributions to Fairfax County extend far beyond planning and land use. He was instrumental in helping Celebrate Fairfax, Inc. grow into a significant regional event. His involvement as a member of the Board of Directors reflects his deep commitment to fostering community engagement. He also worked closely with regional organizations and task forces to ensure that Fairfax County remained a leader in addressing the challenges of transportation, housing, and infrastructure.

His dedication has been recognized with multiple awards, including the prestigious Department of the Army Commander's Award for Public Service and the Lawrence V. Fowler Award. He was also named a Lord Fairfax in 1999, and in 2013, he was honored with the Celebrate Fairfax Ambassador Award.

Beyond his service to Fairfax County, he has also been a leader in the private sector, contributing to public relations and communications. He is an Honorary Chief of the Burke Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department and has continually exemplified leadership throughout his life.

Mr. Speaker, Peter F. Murphy's commitment to public service is seen through his tireless work on behalf of the people of Fairfax County. His vision and tireless efforts have made our community a better place to live and work, and his legacy will continue to impact generations to come. I commend him for his service and ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating him on his retirement.

HONORING THE LEADERSHIP AND STATEWIDE IMPACT OF MR. WILLIAM J. HYBL AT EL POMAR FOUNDATION

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 25, 2024

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the leadership, accomplishments and statewide impact of Mr. William J. Hybl, at El Pomar Foundation in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

For more than five decades, Bill Hybl has generously and unwaveringly served the people of the Pikes Peak region and Colorado first through his work as District Attorney for the 4th Judicial District, then as an elected member of the Colorado House of Representatives, and most recently through his leadership at El Pomar Foundation. As the first employee of El Pomar Foundation in 1973, Hybl stewarded and steered the private foundation established by Spencer and Julie Penrose into the respected, generous, and visionary organization it is today.

Under his leadership, the El Pomar Foundation substantially grew its grant making capacity, leadership development and community engagement programs, and historic property destinations, which all support the well-being of Colorado's residents. Hybl either led or collaborated on significant economic growth projects to support Colorado communities. Thanks to his guidance, El Pomar has contributed more than \$750 million in grant funding and programming for the benefit of the people of Colorado.

Though he has retired as CEO of El Pomar Foundation after 50 years of leadership, he holds the distinction of Chair Emeritus on its Board and continues to serve as a Trustee, providing continued guidance and counsel to the Foundation's governance and grant making.

In addition to leading philanthropic efforts impacting Colorado through the Foundation, Hybl has served and represented Colorado in numerous national and global roles. He was appointed Special Counsel to President Ronald Reagan in 1981. In 2001, President George W. Bush appointed him as U.S. Representative to the 56th General Assembly of the United Nations. In 2008, Hybl was confirmed by the United States Senate as Chairman of the U.S. Commission on Public Diplomacy, a position he was appointed to by President George W. Bush. At the recommendation of the Senate, he was reappointed by President Barack Obama in 2011, and currently serves as Vice Chairman.

Hybl is Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army Emeritus. Additionally, he was Chairman of the Board of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) from 2003 through 2009 and currently serves as Chairman Emeritus. Hybl is Vice Chairman of the Board for International Programs at The Fund for American Studies.

Perhaps most known for his contributions to the Olympic Movement, Hybl is President Emeritus of the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC), and served twice as President, leading the United States Olympic Team Delegations at four Olympic Games. He is Chair of the U.S. Olympic and

Paralympic Endowment and was also a member of the International Olympic Committee from 2000 through 2002. He was inducted into the Colorado Sports Hall of Fame in 2006. His dedication and commitment to the Olympic Movement has helped pave the way for Colorado Springs to be named Olympic City USA.

A native of Colorado, Hybl was raised in Pueblo, Colorado and attended Colorado College, where in 1964 he was recognized as a Distinguished Military Graduate of the ROTC program. He then went on to earn his Juris Doctor at the University of Colorado School of Law in 1967. After graduating from law school, Hybl served in the United States Army, serving as a Major in the U.S. Army Reserve, Judge Advocate General Corps until 1978.

He was married to Kathleen Horrigan for 56 years, and they have two sons, B.J. and Kyle, and six grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in Congress join me in honoring William J. Hybl's life, which is a testament to his unwavering dedication to public service, leadership, and community engagement. His contributions have left an indelible mark on the Olympic movement, public diplomacy, and numerous organizations. His legacy of service and commitment continues to inspire and impact countless individuals and communities in the Pikes Peak region and throughout Colorado.

CELEBRATING LAURA WILSON AS
CITIZEN OF THE YEAR BY THE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE
TONAWANDAS

HON. TIMOTHY M. KENNEDY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 25, 2024

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Ms. Laura Wilson as the Citizen of the Year recognized by the Chamber of Commerce of the Tonawandas. Laura has been an indispensable force behind the growth and revitalization of North Tonawanda, and her contributions are nothing short of remarkable.

Joining the Lumber City Development Corporation in 2014 and serving as Executive Director since 2021, Ms. Wilson exemplifies what it means to be a dedicated public servant and visionary leader, playing a vital part in the Riviera Theater and Entertainment Complex revitalization.

Ms. Wilson's vision extends beyond mere bricks and mortar. Her keen eye for art has transformed many public spaces within the City of North Tonawanda. These artistic touches not only help make the city beautiful but also foster a sense of pride and identity among fellow citizens.

Laura's commitment does not stop at her professional responsibilities. She is deeply involved in our community, serving as a Board Member of Leadership Niagara and previously on the Board of the Chamber of Commerce of the Tonawandas. Her volunteerism and guidance toward various organizations, further demonstrating her dedication to making North Tonawanda a better place for all.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in celebrating Ms. Laura Wilson as Citizen of the Year. We all should recognize her remarkable leadership and achievements but also her unwavering spirit of collaboration, innovation, and service.

Laura's leadership has left an indelible mark on our city, and we are all the better for it.

HONORING THE CAREER OF
JOHN RICH

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 25, 2024

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the retirement of John Rich, longtime Managing Editor of the Fresno Bee.

John Rich has served the San Joaquin Valley as a dedicated Journalist for over 40 years. Rich, a native of Auburn, obtained his bachelor's degree in journalism from Fresno State University. He worked at the Modesto Bee beginning in 1980 but left in 1984 to join the sports department at The Fresno Bee. Over the years, John took on larger roles within The Fresno Bee, including as Sports Editor, Metro Editor and Assistant Managing Editor, before his promotion to Managing Editor in 2015.

Throughout his time at The Fresno Bee, John worked to the highest journalist standards for accuracy and fairness. Every day, he guided reporters and photographers to tell the stories of the Central Valley. As an editor, he was intricately involved in the production of the daily news, from assigning stories to reporters to editing copy, writing headlines and choosing the makeup of the printed paper and digital reports. During his career, he evolved with technological advances and changes to the newspaper environment, but he never lost sight that his job was to deliver the news that matters to the people of the Valley, whether the latest details of a Fresno State Football game or an in-depth expose on corruption at city hall.

Mr. Rich also leaves a legacy as a mentor and coach. He has been an inspiration for other journalists in the field. Jim Boren, former editor of the Bee, described it this way: "As we bid farewell to John Rich on his retirement, it gives us an opportunity to reflect on his illustrious career and thank him for his unwavering dedication to the pursuit of truth. John's true legacy lies in the countless aspiring journalists he has guided along the way. He has patiently nurtured their talent, instilled in them a profound respect for the power of words, and demonstrated the importance of journalistic integrity. He taught us kindness and humility and made everyone around him better." That sentiment is shared by the journalists he worked alongside.

John Ellis, former political reporter at The Bee, said: "In a world that often was frantic and chaotic, John was the calm at the storm's center. I don't think anyone worked harder and more coherently under pressure to ensure that, day after day, no matter how crazy the Fresno Bee newsroom got, no matter how many editors weighed in with suggestions, no matter how close to deadline stories kept evolving, the best, complete and most up-to-date news would publish—sans any leaps of logic, grammatical or punctuation errors. That takes true talent."

Bill McEwen, former reporter, columnist, and opinion page editor said: "John Rich is the hardest working editor that I've come across in my 45 years in journalism. His passion for

news, accuracy, and readers was unparalleled."

Barbara Anderson, award-winning health reporter for The Bee, said: "John Rich has been the steady, consistent and calm leader at The Fresno Bee for all the years I have known him as an editor. He has worked tirelessly behind the scenes—without a prominent byline—guiding the newsroom to deliver clear, complete, compelling and honest news. I can think of no one who has shown more dedication to the newspaper—to the communities of the San Joaquin Valley—and to the reporters, photographers and graphic artists who are honored to have called him a colleague. John's fingerprints are covered in news ink and readers in Fresno and the San Joaquin Valley are far richer for the imprint he has made at The Fresno Bee."

Outside of journalism, John also gave back to the community as a volunteer, most prominently a coach and supporter of youth sports alongside Dennise, and children, Andrew and Tori. His dedication to his family and to his community are equally impressive.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring John Rich for his dedication and commitment to preserving community journalism. May we never forget his contributions and continue to be inspired by his legacy.

RECOGNIZING PA-1'S HOMETOWN
HERO: ED PRESTON

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 25, 2024

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary individual from Pennsylvania's First Congressional District—someone who has gone above and beyond the call of duty in service to both our community and our country. It is with great respect and admiration that I recognize Ed Preston, one of our district's distinguished Hometown Heroes.

Hometown Heroes are not defined by titles or accolades but by the quiet power of their actions. They are distinguished by their unwavering integrity, the strength of their character, and their steadfast commitment to the people and places they serve. They are the foundation upon which our communities stand—the ones who lift others up, inspire hope, and, in doing so, call us all to higher standards of service and compassion. Ed has embodied this spirit in ways that words can scarcely capture.

Ed has not only served our community but also transformed the lives of those around him. Ed was pivotal in raising \$220,000 to construct a memorial to veterans of the Vietnam War at the Middletown Veterans Memorial Park. Through these efforts, Ed strengthens the fabric of our district and proves that when driven by purpose, compassion, and an unwavering sense of duty, one individual can leave a lasting and profound impact on an entire community.

In times of uncertainty, it is the work of individuals like Ed that reminds us of the strength of the human spirit. Their service, given without expectation of recognition, stands as a testament to the belief that one individual's dedication can ripple through the lives of